

Amendments to the Claims:

This claims listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

- 1.-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A hybrid oligonucleotide comprising ~~one or more deoxyribonucleotide~~ 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotide POPS blocks, the POPS blocks comprising alternating phosphorothioate and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages, ~~flanked by which flank at least one region of deoxyribonucleosides regions of at least two contiguous 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides~~, wherein the ~~2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides~~ deoxyribonucleosides are linked by ~~internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester and phosphorothioate internucleoside linkages~~.
5. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 12 to 50 nucleotides.
6. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 17 to 35 nucleotides.
7. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the alternating phosphorothioate and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages are present in a ratio of from 1:3 to 3:1.
8. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 7, wherein the alternating phosphorothioate and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages are present in a ratio of from about 1:1.
9. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 7, wherein the phosphorothioate and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages alternate in a manner selected from the group consisting of one-to-one, two-to-one, one-to-two, two-to-two and three-to-three.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein one or more of the 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides is a 2'-halogen selected from the group consisting of 2'-Cl, 2'-Br, and 2'-F.
13. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein one or more of the 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides is a 2'-O-lower alkyl group containing 1-6 saturated or unsaturated carbon atoms, wherein such alkyl group may be unsubstituted or

substituted with a chemical group selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, acyl, acyloxy, alkoxy, carboxyl, carbalkoxyl, amino or a combination of two or more such chemical groups.

14. (previously presented) The hybrid oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein one or more of the 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides is a 2'-O-aryl or allyl group containing 2-6 carbon atoms, wherein such aryl or allyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with a chemical group selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, acyl, acyloxy, alkoxy, carboxyl, carbalkoxyl, amino or a combination of two or more such chemical groups.

15.-25. (canceled)